

# Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Prince Asiel Ben Israel

PERSON

Ben Israel, Asiel, 1941-2022

**Alternative Names:** Prince Asiel Ben Israel; Warren Brown

**Life Dates:** April 30, 1941-August 21, 2022

**Place of Birth:** Chicago, Illinois, USA

**Work:** Chicago, IL

**Occupations:** Religious Leader

## Biographical Note

Prince Asiel Ben Israel was born on April 30, 1941, in Chicago, Illinois, as Warren Brown. He graduated from Dunbar Vocational High School (now Dunbar Vocational Career Academy) in Chicago in 1959. He then attended DePaul University, studied international studies at the University of Ghana, in Accra, Ghana, and at Makerere University, in Kampala, Uganda, and received his doctorate from the School of Interactive Theology at the School of the Prophets Institute, in Dimona, Israel.

In 1971, Brown moved to Dimona, Israel, to join Ben Ammi Ben-Israel's African Hebrew Israelite Nation of Jerusalem, soon taking on the name Prince Asiel Ben Israel and serving as the community's international ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary. In 1981, Ben Israel and his wife, Yohanna Brown, opened Original Soul Vegetarian, a vegan restaurant on the South Side of Chicago.

Ben Israel served as president and CEO of Bold Spiritual Initiative, president of Africa Israel Asia, international spokesperson for Straight Talk Economic Roundtable, chairman of First Africa Corporation, a sponsor of the annual Holy Jerusalem Summit Conferences, and a convener of the National Leadership Council of African Americans.

Ben Israel also served with Support-a-Child International, Inc., as a board member of the International United Black Fund, coordinator of the African Development Program's private volunteer organization project and director of its international fundraising projects, as a special economic advisor to the World Conference of Mayors, as an advisor to the U.S. Congressional Black Caucus, and as a member of the African American Clergy Network of Chicago.

Ben Israel and his wife, Yohanna Brown, lived in Chicago, Illinois, with their children

Prince Asiel Ben Israel, Jr., Lori Seay, and Arel Brown.

Prince Asiel Ben Israel was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on October 8, 2021.

Ben Israel passed away on August 21, 2022 at the age of 81.

## Related Entries

**Dunbar Vocational Career Academy High School** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**DePaul University** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**University of Ghana** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Makerere University** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**School of Interactive Theology at the School of the Prophets Institute** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Doctorate**

**African Hebrew Israelite Nation of Jerusalem** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1971 to ?]

**Prince**

**African Hebrew Israelite Nation of Jerusalem** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**International Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary**

**Original Soul Vegetarian** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1981 to ?]

**Co-founder**

**Bold Spiritual Initiative** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**President and CEO**

**Straight Talk Economic Roundtable** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**International Spokesperson**

**First Africa Corporation** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Chairman**

**Africa Israel Asia** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from ? to ?]

## **President**

**Holy Jerusalem Summit Conferences** [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

## **Sponsor**

**National Leadership Council of African Americans** [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

## **Convener**

**Support-a-Child International, Inc.** [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

**International United Black Fund** [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

## **Board Member**

**African Development Program** [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

## **Volunteer Coordinator and Fundraising Director**

**World Conference of Mayors** [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

## **Special Economic Advisor**

**U.S. Congressional Black Caucus** [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

## **Advisor**

**African American Clergy Network of Chicago** [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

## **Member**

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